



The Weekly Page

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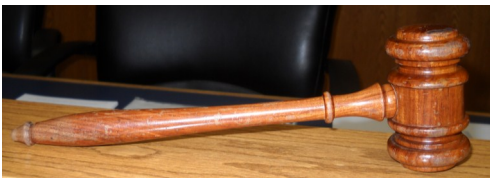
Pages Learn About Legislature



Big ideas in government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, listened to guest speakers, and proposed bills in mock committee hearings, their understanding around the concepts deepened. On Friday, they wrote about one of the big ideas to demonstrate the depth of their new knowledge.

Pages write bills, hold mock hearings



During the first three days of their week, pages worked individually or in small groups to write

bills designed to address issues which were relevant to them and the state. They discussed the criteria for making a legislative solution work before selecting issues to research and develop. Then they used bill templates on class computers to formulate official-looking documents in preparation for mock committee hearings on Thursday. Topics for policy bills included gun violence, plastic bag pollution, welfare fraud and smoking in cars.

Pages read their bills and class “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation was then voted upon, allowing a bill to continue on in the legislative process. As in the real political system, some bills died in committee.

Lawmakers put the breaks on drunk drivers

Olympia – Senate Bill 6347 was introduced yesterday by Senators Daniela Crosby and Hannah Fritz. “This bill addresses the issue of drunk driving and will provide safer roads for



everyone,” said Sen. Crosby. Of all traffic-related deaths in the United States, 32 percent are caused by drunk drivers. “Many people arrested for DUIs have had more than one,” said Sen. Fritz. This bill will require that violators who have three or more DUIs in a five year span get a specialized license plate in order to be more noticeable by police officers. Police patrols will also be increased. Current fines will be doubled.

More money needed for science/math



Olympia – Senate Bill 7293 was introduced yesterday by Senators Maddy Ford and Andrea Luper. “This bill addresses the issue of low math/science skills in students,” said Sen. Luper. The bill was created because the U.S. is falling

behind in math and science education. “One reason students aren’t doing well in these areas are because of unqualified teachers,” said Sen. Ford. Countries like China and South Korea recruit their teachers from the highest levels of graduating classes. Recent studies have shown that 31 percent of all biology teachers do not have at least a minor in biology and over 55 percent of physical science teachers do not have at least a minor in any of the physical sciences. This bill calls for investing more money into educating teachers with the proper training and education, as well as updating materials and textbooks. “Improving the skills of our students will put them in a better position to get the global jobs offered in the future,” said Sen. Luper.

Senators want to legalize killing of wolves



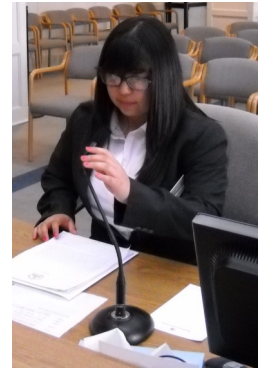
Olympia – Senate Bill 7996 was introduced yesterday by Senators Eli Everson and Mathew Daniels. “This bill addresses the issue of wolves killing

animals in Eastern Washington and will protect game animals and livestock in that area,” said Sen. Everson. A recent survey confirmed the presence of at least 51 wolves in the northeastern part of the state. The Diamond M Ranch lost 40 calves to wolf attacks last year. “Because the wolves are considered endangered species, ranchers aren’t allowed to protect their livestock by killing the predators,” said Sen. Daniels. The game animals in this area are also decreasing due to the increased wolf population, according to the lawmakers. This bill will allow land owners with cattle or high populations of game animals to kill wolves. Also a limited number of hunting tags will be available for purchase in the areas where wolf populations are unusually

high. “This will protect the populations of game animals and allow ranchers to protect their herds,” said Sen. Everson.

Undocumented students get college access

Olympia – House Bill 1817 was introduced yesterday by Representative Yvonne De La Cruz. “This bill addresses the issue of college access for undocumented students and will provide a future for these kids that were brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents,” said Rep. De La Cruz. The bill will expand eligibility for financial aid to undocumented students who have lived in Washington for at least four years, have attended and graduated from a high school in the state of Washington, have come to the U.S. before the age of 16, and have not been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor. Undocumented students are getting accepted into some of the best schools in Washington but they may not be able to pay for the opportunity to go to that school, according to the lawmaker. Currently they do not qualify for federal and most state-based financial aid. “These are students who worked hard throughout high school and have taken rigorous classes. Making this investment now will benefit the state in the long-run because all these students will be getting college degrees that qualify them for better paying jobs, and they will be paying more taxes,” she said.



Bill aimed at preventing concussions

Olympia – House Bill 1997 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Erin Mason and Jessica Eidenmuller. “This bill addresses the issue of sports head injuries and will promote safety in school sports,” said Rep. Eidenmuller.

Annually between 1.6 to 3.8 million sports and recreation-related concussions are sustained in the United States, the majority of them on the football field. One in ten high school football players are affected by a concussion each year, according to the lawmakers. The bill will require all coaches, athletes and parents of minors to take an informational class on the dangers, causes and signs of a concussion. In addition, every team will be required to have an on-site medical team or trainer to diagnose head injuries sustained by athletes before they are allowed to reenter a practice or game.



College Bound scholarships extended to high schoolers

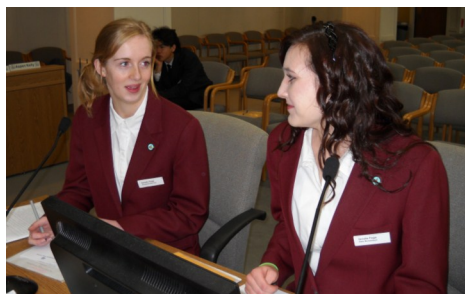
Olympia – Senate Bill 5432 was introduced yesterday by Senators Emma Cooper, Ruth-Fiam Abdugaparova,



Nia Dhillon. "This bill addresses the issue of the College Bound scholarship program and will expand the target applicants to students in high school," said Sen. Cooper. Washington currently ranks 40th nationally in the percentage of low-income students participating in postsecondary education. Within 10 years, these students will represent 33 percent of high school graduating classes and, without intervention, 72 percent of students from low-income families are unlikely to aspire to college, according to the legislators. "We don't want to prevent anyone who wants to go to college from realizing their dream," said Sen. Abdugaparova. Right now the College Bound scholarships offered by the state only apply to seventh and eighth graders from low income families. The bill would allow high school students to apply.

Senators call for ban on plastic bags

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Ellen Richardson and Anastasia Stevens introduced Senate Bill 5555, which addresses the issue of plastic bag pollution.



"The bill is a good one because it addresses a serious environmental problem," said Sen. Stevens. One hundred billion plastic bags are thrown out each year, while only 5.2 percent are recovered for recycling, according to the lawmakers. Manufacturing the bags contributes to global warming, and the bags have a dramatic negative impact on marine life when the decomposed petroleum-based plastic eventually breaks down and the animals accidentally ingest them. The bill prohibits stores from giving out checkout bags unless they are made of paper or compostable plastic. "For the sake of our environment, we must reduce the plastic bag pollution," said Sen. Richardson.

Save the children!

Olympia – House Bill 3999 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Aspen Kelly and Olivia Elston.

"This bill addresses the issue of second-hand smoke in vehicles and will improve the health of our young children,"



said Rep. Kelly. Second hand smoke contains more than 250 chemicals known to be toxic or cancer-causing. Studies have shown children are more at risk than adults for adverse health effects of second hand smoke, ranging from ear infections to asthma and bronchitis. This bill will ban smoking in cars where a minor is present. It will be a secondary offense punishable with a \$150 fine. "Children can't speak for their own right. We must give them a voice and speak for them," Said Rep. Elston. According to the legislators, four other states have enacted similar laws since 2007.

House sets a higher standard for athletes



Olympia – House Bill 1234 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Hannah Feller and Seth Stauffer. "This bill addresses the issue of school sports eligibility and will create fair competition among schools," said Rep. Feller. The problem was

explained this way. If Team A follows the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association's (WIAA) standards, students can fail more than one class and still play in the game. However, some schools set higher standards than the basic WIAA guidelines; so Team B, who plays under these higher standards, leaves some of its star players on the bench during the game because they are not eligible to play. This is not fair to students who have been working very hard on their academics and athletics," said Rep. Feller. If this bill becomes a law, all high school student athletes must maintain a 2.0 grade point average, with no failing grades. "We are committed to helping student athletes succeed in a college environment, so this bill will help do so," she said.

Are we making abortion too easy?

Olympia – Senate Bill 6000 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Peyton Wilson and Janet Kruschke.

“This bill addresses the issue of abortion regulations and will improve the health and well-being of young women,” said Sen. Wilson. The legislators hope that their bill will make abortion much more difficult to get, as well limit the amount of procedures per year. “Abortion is being used as a form of birth control. People should not take death lightly and this bill will provide regulations for people to hopefully rethink such an important, destructive decision,” said Sen. Kruschke. The bill proposes requiring parental notification before minors can get an abortion. In addition, counseling is required both before and after the procedure, and patients must view a sonogram of the fetus and listen to the baby’s heartbeat.



Assault rifles banned

Olympia – House Bill 2013 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Eric Roth, Anthony Getty, Sean

Seiber. “This bill addresses the issue of gun violence and will create safer communities,” said Rep. Seiber. Of the 62 mass shootings in the U.S. from 1982-2012, 35 of the 142 weapons used in the shootings were assault weapons. In one of the worst attacks—at a Colorado movie theater—70 people were injured or killed by an AR-15 assault rifle. Closer to home, six people were shot at the Tacoma Mall by a gunman using a Norinco Mak-90 assault rifle. “This craziness has got to stop,” said Rep. Roth. SB 2013 bans all assault rifles from public use. Current rifle owners will be given a buy-back payment in exchange for their weapons. “The legislation will keep powerful guns from getting into the hands of people who don’t use them wisely and may be mentally ill,” said Rep. Getty.



Criminals required to provide DNA samples for state database



Olympia – Senate Bill 5556 was introduced yesterday by Senators Jack Pokorny and Collin Pernu. “This bill addresses the issue of current DNA collection laws restricting police inves-

tigations and will require any convicted criminal to provide DNA if their crimes have resulted jail time,” said Sen. Pernu. There are already 21 states with laws that require DNA tests by the police and if Washington were to join this group, that would significantly increase the criminal DNA database, according to the legislators.

Marine animals hurt by plastic bags



Olympia – House Bill 1969 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Madison Littleton and Alisha Langley. “This bill addresses the issue of plastic bag pollution

and will create a healthier environment,” said Rep. Littleton. Last September, more than 354,000 bags, most of them plastic, were collected during an international cleanup of coastal areas in the United States and 100 other countries, according to the Ocean Conservancy. Every year in Washington State, people throw away about 270,000 tons of plastic bags and wrappings. In addition, over 10,000 whales, seals, turtles, and other marine animals are killed by plastic bags each year. The bill will require businesses to add a 10 cent fee to each plastic bag provided to a customer. The business must offer options such as a reusable bag or a paper bag. “The reduction of plastic bags will create less pollution, save thousands of animals, and reduce waste making the environment an all-around healthier place,” said Rep. Langley.

Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/PageSchool> This newsletter has been posted there.

Welfare fraud bill tightens up state money



Olympia – Senate Bill 5454 was introduced yesterday by Senators Tabitha Curnow, Alicia Uchtyl, and Jonathon Gizinski. “This

bill addresses the issue of welfare benefit abuse and will save millions of wasted state dollars now being misused through electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards,” said Sen. Curnow. In a recent investigation, it was revealed that DSHS offices replaced an average of 27,000 EBT cards each month in 2012. “People sell their cards on Craigslist and then report their cards stolen so they can get a new one,” said Sen. Uchtyl. This bill will limit the number of replacement cards to three per year. In addition, cards will no longer be able to be used in ATM machines. All new cards will require a photo ID on them to prevent someone else from using them.

Legislature hits the snooze alarm for teens across the state



Olympia – House Bill 1320 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Raelinda Locke and Kiana Peterson. “This bill addresses the issue of sleep deprived teens and will improve the

health and academic success of students,” said Rep. Locke. Experts have said that teenagers who don’t get enough sleep have worse grades, more depression, anxiety, irritability, poor attendance and a greater tendency toward delinquency and violence. The National Sleep Foundation found that 60 percent of children under the age of 18 complained of being tired during the day and 15 percent said they fell asleep at school during the year. “There is an easy fix for this and it involves changing the start times for high schools,” said Rep. Peterson. The bill proposes that no public high school begin before 9 a.m. “Changing start times will not only positively affect the attitude and amount of sleep in high school teens, but also increase the amount of knowledge in them as well,” said Rep. Locke.

\$50 fine proposed on outlawed bags



Olympia – Senate Bill 7998 was introduced yesterday by Senators Joseph Uchtyl and Josiah Sherwood. “This bill addresses the issue of plastic bag pollution and will ban their use at retail and grocery stores,”

said Sen. Uchtyl. These bags can harm marine animals, according to the research provided by the legislators. “One beached gray whale in West Seattle was found to have 20 plastic bags in its stomach, and more than one in 10 gulls in the Strait of Juan de Fuca were found to have eaten plastic from decomposed bags,” said Sen. Sherwood. The stores that violate the new law will face stiff fines of \$50 for each outlawed bag. “Stores can still provide reusable canvas and cloth bags or non-reusable paper bags, but we must save our environment and marine animals from this deadly pollution,” said Sen. Uchtyl.

Reps think firearms insurance will reduce gun violence

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Sara Esselstrom, Eli Bernstein, And Tristan Svenson introduced



House Bill 3333, which addresses the issue of gun violence. “The bill is a good one because it stops the wrong people from getting guns while simultaneously helping the economy,” said Rep. Bernstein. Three fourths of the 142 guns used by mass murderers in the past 30 years were obtained legally, showing that it is too easy for these killers to acquire firearms and use them to kill others, according to the legislators. This bill will require all gun owners to have gun insurance. People with criminal pasts will either be given higher rates or denied gun ownership. “This bill also helps the economy as private insurance companies will create more jobs and profit from this safer way of owning a firearm,” Said Rep. Svenson.

Watch us live at TVW.org

Search for Page School in the Archives to watch yourself in the committee hearings.

House legislates improvements to Death with Dignity Act

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Sophie Jenkinson, Jasmine Langley and Andres Toquica-Quintero introduced House Bill 1293, which ad-



resses the issue of the Death With Dignity Act. “The bill is a good one because it will reduce loopholes that could cause potential problems,” said Rep. Toquica-Quintero. Statistics have shown that 54 percent of people who chose assisted suicide thought that they were a burden on their immediate family. Four percent could not afford treatment for their illness and chose the cheaper choice of death. Changes to the existing law which are proposed in this bill include increasing the waiting period from 15 to 30 days between the first oral request and a written request, making sure that witnesses to the patient’s decision to use the law are not death beneficiaries, and changing the death certificate to read assisted suicide rather than the terminal disease the patient has. “We want to make sure the person who chooses this method to end his life has had plenty of time to make the decision and isn’t pressured by anyone,” said Rep. Jenkinson.

Sleep-deprived teens do better in school with later start time



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Ayla Stoops and Lydia Simpson introduced Senate Bill 5423, which addresses the issue of sleep deprived teenagers. “The bill is a good one because it will improve the health and academic

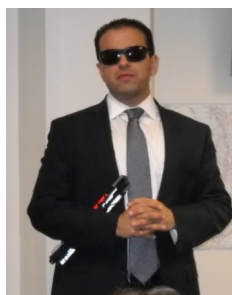
success of teens,” said Sen. Simpson. Experts recommend that high schoolers get 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep per night; however, 85 percent get less than that per night, according to the lawmakers. Sleep deprivation impairs the ability to pay attention, be creative, communicate well and problem solve. In addition, science journals report that a teen’s circadian rhythms—or “sleep-wake” cycles—create a situation where teens naturally

go to bed later and wake up later. “High schools that start so early in the morning do not match this internal clock,” said Sen. Stoops. This bill will require school districts to switch the elementary and high school start times. “Later school starts should help adolescents get the sleep they need to do better in school,” said Sen. Simpson.

Sine Die and goodbye!

At the rear of both chambers of the legislative building are massive double doors. When opened wide, the presiding officers on the respective rostrums can see one another across the rotunda. It is a long-standing tradition that the final act of the legislative session occurs when the two officers simultaneously bang their gavels and announce they are now adjourned *sine die*; that is, without setting a time to reconvene. On Sunday, after 105 days, the first session of the 63rd Legislative biennium will end. Over 2,000 bills were introduced in the two chambers, but only about 15-20 percent will actually become laws. Pages got a first-hand look at how parliamentary procedure is used by legislators on the floor of each chamber as they delivered documents, listened to their legislators express their views and watched the voting process. The last bills to be passed will be sent to the Governor for his signature at the regular session’s end on April 28, although it is highly likely that a special session will be needed to finalize a vote on budget-related bills.

Guest speakers visit Page School



Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D-Seattle) from the 36th district, Legislative Assistant Adam Cooper, Rep. Cyrus Habib (D-Kirkland) from the 48th district, and



House interns Angela Bastien and James Gutsch joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. All guests shared insightful information about their jobs. Pages were able to ask questions and sharing their own views in response to the speakers’ comments.

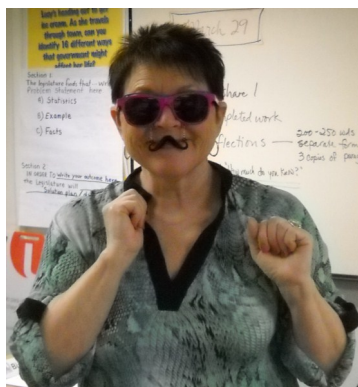
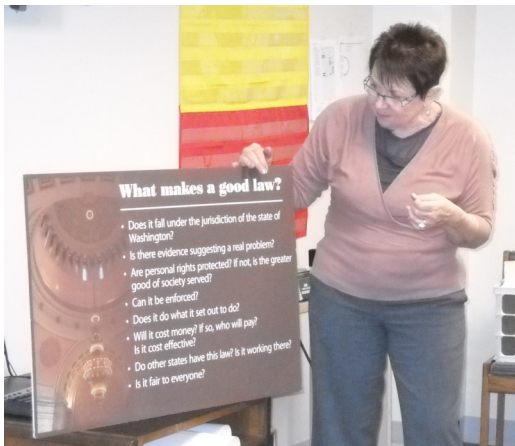
Competitive edge results in *Jeopardy* win

On Friday pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.



Teachers passionate about education

The Washington State Legislature's 2013 Page School employs certificated civics teachers Judi Orr and Lisa McGrath. Judi is a retired social studies and English teacher who taught for over 35 years in the Clover Park School District, and Lisa has been teaching over 15 years in public high schools and at the college level in North Carolina. "I just moved to Washington in November and am loving learning about my new state," said Lisa. Both teachers enjoyed meeting students from all parts of Washington and teaching them more about how state government functions. "One of my favorite activities is watching committee hearings. Seeing citizens testify about various issues alongside experts in the field is just fascinating to me," said Judi.



Page program over 120 years old

The Legislative page program has been in existence since 1891. This photo is of pages who served in past years. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members. Page duties today are much more professional and include delivering campus correspondence, helping with mailings in legislative offices, and handing out documents on the floor of the Senate and House.



